

SENATE BILL 656

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2lr2216

By: **Senators Manno, Ramirez, Benson, Colburn, Ferguson, Forehand, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Montgomery, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community Colleges – Tuition Waivers – Inclusion of Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of the term “tuition” as it applies to a
4 waiver of the charges for residents of the State who are out of the work force for
5 certain reasons relating to a disability and who are taking courses at a
6 community college to include certain fees; making a stylistic change; and
7 generally relating to tuition waivers for senior citizens attending community
8 college.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 16–106(a), (b), and (c)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 16–106.

18 (a) Any full-time classified employee of a community college who enrolls,
19 during [his] **THE EMPLOYEE’S** nonworking hours, in any class at the community
20 college that has at least 10 regularly enrolled students:

21 (1) Is exempt from payment of tuition; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) May not be counted in computing full-time equivalent enrollment
2 at the community college under § 16-305 of this title.

3 (b) (1) (i) In this subsection, “tuition” means the basic instructional
4 charge for courses offered at a community college.

5 (ii) [“Tuition”] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF**
6 **THIS SECTION, “TUITION”** does not include:

7 1. Any fees or costs associated with a self-supporting
8 program; or

9 2. Any fees for:

10 A. Registration;

11 B. Application;

12 C. Administration; or

13 D. Laboratory work.

14 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, any
15 resident of this State who is 60 years old or older and who enrolls in any class, which
16 is eligible under § 16-305 of this title for State support, at the community college:

17 (i) Shall be exempt from payment of tuition; and

18 (ii) Shall be counted in computing full-time equivalent
19 enrollment under § 16-305 of this title if enrolled in any class that is eligible for State
20 support.

21 (3) A community college is required to waive the tuition for a course
22 for senior citizens under this subsection only when course space is available.

23 (4) This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a community
24 college board of trustees from offering senior citizens other educational opportunities
25 free of charge, provided that the senior citizen is not counted in computing full-time
26 equivalent enrollment for the purpose of receiving State support.

27 (c) **(1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “TUITION” INCLUDES THE FEES SET**
28 **FORTH IN SUBSECTION (B)(1)(II) OF THIS SECTION.**

29 **[(1)] (2)** Any resident of this State who is out of the work force by
30 reason of total and permanent disability who enrolls at a community college in a class
31 that has at least 10 regularly enrolled students:

1 (i) Is exempt from payment of tuition for up to 6 credits per
2 semester or up to 12 credits per semester if the individual is enrolled in classes as part
3 of a degree or a certificate program designed to lead to employment; and

4 (ii) Shall be counted in computing full-time equivalent
5 enrollment under § 16-305 of this title.

6 **[(2)] (3)** In order to receive this exemption, an individual who meets
7 the requirements of paragraph **[(1)] (2)** of this subsection shall provide the community
8 college with certification from the Social Security Administration, the Railroad
9 Retirement Board, or in the case of a former federal employee, from the individual's
10 federal retirement or pension authority of the individual's:

11 (i) Total and permanent disability; and

12 (ii) Receipt of disability or retirement benefits based on a
13 standard that is at least as stringent as the standard applied by the Social Security
14 Act.

15 **[(3)] (4)** Certification from the Social Security Administration of an
16 individual's receipt of disability or retirement benefits under either Title II or Title
17 XVI of the federal Social Security Act shall satisfy the requirement in paragraph
18 **[(2)(ii)] (3)(II)** of this subsection.

19 **[(4)] (5)** (i) In order to receive this exemption, an individual who
20 meets the requirements of paragraph **[(1)] (2)** of this subsection and is enrolled in a
21 degree or certificate program shall submit a timely application for any State or federal
22 student financial aid, other than a student loan, for which the student may qualify.

23 (ii) Any student financial aid, other than a student loan,
24 received by the student shall be applied first to pay the student's tuition.

25 (iii) Under this exemption, the waiver shall apply to the
26 difference, if any, between the charge for tuition and the financial aid award, not
27 including a student loan, that the student receives.

28 (iv) On request, the community college shall assist any
29 individual required to submit an application for State or federal student financial aid
30 under this paragraph.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 July 1, 2012.